

THE NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS

December 13, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 41-47 as follows:

41. A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides wherein one  
of said sides is a front side;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade;

a guard assembly comprising:  
a hinge extending at an angle between said  
10 front side and one of said sides of said deck,  
a guard pivotally attached to said deck via  
said hinge; and,  
a holding member for holding said guard in  
one rotational position in relation to said deck.

42. The mower guard of claim 41, wherein said angle  
of said hinge is an obtuse angle.

43. The mower guard of claim 41, further comprising  
a flap extending from said guard and movable in relation  
to said guard, said flap being oriented in a plane spaced  
apart from a plane of said guard.

44. The mower guard of claim 41, wherein said angle  
is formed between about 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions  
in relation to the front side of said deck.

45. A mower head comprising:
- a deck comprising a front side, a back side, and a pair of side walls extending between said front and back sides;
  - at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;
  - a guard assembly comprising:
    - a hinge mounted on said deck, said hinge extending at an obtuse angle in relation to said front side and one of said side walls,
    - a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge; and,
    - a linkage assembly for pivoting said guard in relation to said deck, a first portion of said linkage assembly being mounted to said guard and a second portion of said linkage assembly being mounted to said deck.

46. The mower guard of claim 45, further comprising a flap extending from said guard and movable in relation to said guard, said flap being oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said guard.

47. The mower guard of claim 45, wherein said angle is formed between about 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions in relation to the front side of said deck.